

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claim 1 with the following:

1. A wafer boat for supporting silicon wafers, the wafer boat comprising:
a ceramic body having at least one wafer support structure sized to support a silicon wafer thereon;
a ceramic coating disposed on a surface of the wafer support structure, the ceramic coating having an impurity migration preventing thickness and a wafer contact surface, the wafer contact surface having a post coating surface finish;
wherein the post coating surface finish of the wafer contact surface substantially prevents frictional slip in the silicon wafers and is less than or substantially equal to 1 micron; and
wherein the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to 1/2 of the surface area of the wafer.

Please cancel claim 28.

Please replace Claim 29 with the following:

29. The wafer boat of Claim 1 comprising:
a base;
a plurality of support rods extending generally upwards from the base, each support rod including at least one arm extending generally inwardly relative to the base, each arm having the post coating surface finish disposed thereon.

Please replace Claim 30 with the following:

30. A wafer boat for supporting silicon wafers, the wafer boat comprising:
a ceramic body having at least one wafer support structure sized to support a silicon wafer thereon;
a ceramic coating disposed on a surface of the wafer support structure, the ceramic coating having an impurity migration preventing thickness and a wafer contact surface, the wafer contact surface having a post coating surface finish;
wherein the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to $1/2$ of the surface area of the wafer, and the post coating surface finish substantially prevents frictional slip in the silicon wafer.
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